(a) whether the commanding officer of the 16th Maratha Light Infantry and some other officers were killed by the N.E. insurgents during 1994;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry to identify the chinks in the armour was conducted;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof, and

(d) the measures taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) The Acting Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. K.B. Poonacha, of the 16th Maratha Light Infantry and a Jawan were killed on December 27, 1994 at Mokokchung by Naga insurgents.

(b) to (d) There are no chinks in the amour as such. However, the insurgents take advantage of the difficult hilly terrain, jungles and other factors to launch attacks on security forces/police. The insurgency situation is under constant watch and close review. The whole are a of Nagaland was declared as 'disturbed area' in April 1995 to deal with the situation.

[Translation]

Special Employment Scheme for Fishermen

4127. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided to the States under Special Employment Scheme during 1989-90 and 1990-91 in the country, state-wise ;

(b) whether fish ponds were constructed to promote fishery under the Special Employment Scheme ;

(c) if so, the total amount provided to Uttar Pradesh for the purpose ;

(d) whether the works were done according to the standard of the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether any inquiry is proposed to be conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Funds were provided to the States by the Central Government under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) but no funds were provided for Special Employment Scheme. Piscicultre was one of the activities for which funds under the JRY could be utilised by the states. However, funds were not separately released for this activity. It is also learnt from the Government of Uttar Pradesh that the state Government had provided Rs. 319.41 Lakh for establishment of 12 Fisheries Estates in 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh in 1991-92 under Din Dayal Development Scheme, now renamed as Ambedkar Vishesh Rozgar Yojna.

(d) The works were done in general according to the plans and 256 fish ponds were constructed with 128 hectares of water area. 221 borings have been done of which 212 are shallow borings. 8 are deep borings and one is a deep tubewell.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Metro Railway Calcutta

4128. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metro Railways has started functioning in Calcutta,

(b) the number of occasions on which the Metro Railway caught fire till date, and whether after fire the routes were closed for hours together;

(c) the reasons for repeated occurrence of the fire incidents,

(d) the reasons for not trying to detect the fault behind these fire incidents;

(e) steps taken by Government to get the fault rectified once for all; and

(f) the time by which the fault would be got rectified permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I.

(i) One case of fire in the Metro train.

(ii) Two cases of fire in the undergear of empty coaches, and one incident of fire in the cable joint in the tunnel.

II. Interruption to through services varied between one hour 30 minutes to six hours 35 minutes. Truncated services were, however, maintained.

(c) Failure of equipment and sabotage.

(d) Coaches are regularly inspected as per schedule.

(e) and (f) The fires which have occurred so far could not be attributed to any single type of fault. Inspection and maintenance of coaches has been improved to avoid recurrence.

Gauge Conversion

4129. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of Ahmedabad-Delhi Metre Gauge Rail link converted into Broad Gauge;

(b) whether some conversion work is still to be executed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) the time by which the complete gauge conversion of the said route would be done and the same would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 444 Kms between Delhi-Ajmer and 52 kms between Ahmedabad-Mahesana sections have been converted into broad-gauge.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 423 Kms of Ajmer-Mahesana section is yet to be converted into broad gauge.

(d) By February, 1997.

[Translation]

Payment to Cotton Growers

4130. SHRI DATA MEGHE :
SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the outstanding dues of the cotton growers have not been paid till date in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for immediate payment of the dues to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As of date the entire payment of the dues to the cotton growers has been made in Maharashtra by the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) did not procure cotton under price support operation during the last three years in rest of the country. There is no outstanding dues to the CCI for the earlier period.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Rail Line

4131. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion work for the Bangalore-Meeraj rail line is going at a very slow pace;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the conversion work is likely to be completed by the end of 1997; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Gauge Conversion work between Bangalore-Miraj has already been completed and the constructed BG line has been opened to traffic on 29.05.95.

Freedom Fighter Pension

4132. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the benefits the Government propose to provide to Freedom Fighters' children besides the ones they are presently getting;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide free medical care service to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the schemes formulated or likely to be formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide other benefits to the Children of the Freedom Fighters besides the ones they are getting.

(b) and (c) Freedom Fighter Pensioners and their dependants are already provided free medical facilities in all Central Government Hospitals and Hospitals under the Control of Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE). C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to them. As such, there appears to be no need to formulate separate scheme for their medical care and expenses to be borne by the Government.

Amendments in CRZ Notification

4133 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by Kerala as a result of the Coastal Management Plan of his Ministry imposing severe restrictions on the construction works in the coastal area;

(b) whether the Government are considering to take necessary steps to amend the provisions of the CRZ Notification issued by Ministry on August 16, 1994 in this regard and formulate guidelines to suit Kerala's interests; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests imposed restrictions on setting up and expansion of